

653

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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

Joint Automatic Language Processing Group (JALPG)

The attached letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, to the President, National Academy of Sciences, is for your information, and has particular relevance to efforts made to coordinate Machine Translation (MT) projects supported by Federal funds.



Paul A. Borel
Chairman

Attachment

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NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

October 9 1963

Dr. Fredrick Seitz
President, National Academy of Sciences
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Seitz:

The Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation and the Central Intelligence Agency all sponsor projects in automatic processing of foreign languages including projects in mechanical translation. Because of the importance of national requirements for automatic language processing and because of the need for a coordinated federal program of research and development in this area, these three agencies have established a joint automatic language processing group (JALPG) to provide overall coordination and guidance. As other government agencies become active in automatic language processing research and development they will be encouraged to participate in this joint effort.

One of the first decisions of the joint group was recognition of the need for an advisory committee which could provide directed technical assistance as well as contributing independent observations. On behalf of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, (DoD), the National Science Foundation and the Central Intelligence Agency, I should like to ask you to consider establishing a committee on automatic language processing to serve as an advisory group to us. It is anticipated that such a committee would be a full time National Academy of Science staff function and would require both part-time members and consultant services. Multiple support would be provided by our three agencies. The principal technical areas with which the committee would be concerned include computational linguistics, mechanical translation, automatic abstracting, indexing and scanning of foreign language texts together with associated hardware development such as character recognition equipment for foreign language symbology, photo composition equipment and the like.

Preliminary discussions on this matter have been held between Dr. Ruth M. Davis, DDR&E, Mr. Richard See, NSF, and Dr. Glenn Finch of your

staff. We would like to assist your staff in any way possible in the establishment of this committee if you agree with us on the pressing need for its existence.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

**Leland J. Haworth
Director**

Carbon copy to:

**Mr. Paul Borel, Central Intelligence Agency
Mr. B. W. Augenstein, Department of Defense**